

Attachment 2

Sandown Feasibility of Withdrawal from TRSD Minority Committee

Governance Sub-committee Meeting Minute (DRAFT)

June 12, 2015 7:00 pm
Sandown Town Hall, lower level

Present:

Tony Piemonte, chair

David Darrah

Michael ~~Constanzo~~Costanzo

Cathy Gorman arrived at ~ 7:40 pm

Donna Green

Cindy Buco

Call to order by Mr. Piemonte at 7:03 pm

Roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

School Board Membership

Group concurred that the size of ~~the~~ any future Sandown school board should be related to the number of standing committees needed for a new district. Since each standing committee should be chaired by a board member, the group felt there should be at least as many board members as standing committees. Discussion on the number of school board members was suspended in favor of discussion of standing committees.

Standing Committees

After much discussion, the group agreed to the need for the following standing committees:

- Capital Improvement Plan, Facilities, and Safety;
- Personnel and negotiation;
- Policy
- Audit

Since a Sandown School District would look very similar to the Hampstead School District, the group decided to learn about Hampstead's standing committees before finalizing a definitive recommendation to the larger committee on this.

School Board Membership Revisited

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned for a five member school board. Mr. Costanzo seconded. Mr. Darrah made an amendment: "a five-member board to increase to seven if necessary." Mrs. Green seconded.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Gorman says there is an RSA in chapter 32 about matching the number of board of selectmen with the number of municipal budget committee members and wonders if this RSA applies to school boards.

Mrs. Green withdraws second, Mr. Darrah withdraws amendment, Mr. Costanzo withdraws second for main motion, Mrs. Green withdraws original motion. Consensus to wait for clarification.

Ms. Gorman pointed out that since the working group is tasked with making recommendations to the committee, motions are not necessary and consensus generally is all that is needed.

School District Budget Committee

In the event that Sandown forms its own school district, should the school district have its own budget committee, as is the case of the Timberlane Regional School District, or should the town's budget committee also oversee the school's budget? Discussion ensued with Ms. Gorman arguing that one budget committee dealing with both budgets would be more likely to attract more volunteers. Right now the town budget committee of five is operating with three vacancies. Ms. Gorman believes more volunteers will be drawn to the town's budget committee by virtue of it having control over the school district's budget and that having two budget committees would tax the volunteer resources of the town.

General consensus that the working group recommend that the Sandown Budget Committee serve as the budget committee for the Sandown School District, should it be created.

It is understood that both the town and school budgets will go to the voters on a stand-alone basis so that voters can vote separately for both the town and the school budgets.

Audit Standing Committee

Discussion turned to the role of the Audit Standing Committee with respect to the budget committee. It was suggested that the audit committee comprise two school board members and two town budget committee members as voting members of the committee with the mandatory attendance of the district business administrator who would not have a vote. The Audit committee would report to both the school board and the town budget committee though there was concern that this comply with RSA 32 and 195, pending further investigation.

Foundational Policies

Mrs. Green explained the relationship between legislation (RSAs), Administrative Rules, and school board policies. Administrative rules give practical guidance to implementing the RSAs and these rules have the power of law. Many policies are required by law and administrative rules. The New Hampshire School Boards Association publishes sample policies identified as mandatory by law, recommended and optional. Policies are indexed by an alphabet system that is used across the country with the first letter indicating a broad policy area. For example, any policy starting with "B" concerns school board governance.

A new school district would have to become a members of the NHSBA to get access to their model policies, adopt the ones that are mandatory, then the policy committee would go through the recommended and optional policies for adoption over time.

Mrs. Green introduced a list of critical policies that have been problematic at Timberlane, with the intention of having these policies - properly written - be part of the foundational policies of a new district. This list is attached. No discussion ensued about the individual policies on the list.

Public Comment

None

Other Business

Mr. Darrah asked us to direct our thoughts to two streams simultaneously 1) How do we form a new district? 2) How do we change things if we stay in Timberlane?

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 pm

Submitted by Donna Green June 15, 2015

Attachment:

Core Optional Policies

Agenda Formulation

Purchasing and Bidding

Nepotism and Cronyism

Conflict of Interest

Financial Transparency

Transfer of Appropriations

Legal Services – authority and privilege

Committee membership and Voting Privileges

Public Comment at School Board Meetings

Correspondence to the School Board

Employee Gifts and Private Benefits